

The Baptist Record

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Substance abusers credit Brantley for new chance

By David Winfrey

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Frank Jones remembers how badly he felt that Sunday morning in October after smoking at least seven rocks of crack cocaine and drinking \$20 worth of liquor.

"I felt like a snake," he recalled, "the lowest thing on the ground."

Sitting on his front porch steps, he watched people dressed up, walking to church and wished he too could go.

Instead, he walked 16 blocks to Charity Hospital, where he stayed clean for seven days. But the hospital allows only a one-week maximum stay, so officials there recommended the Brantley Center.

"The center is a dream come true for the drug addict if you're serious about getting your life back together," Jones said. "It turned my life around and I'm grateful."

Jones' testimony is echoed by several others enrolled in the Brantley Baptist Center's drug and alcohol rehabilitation program.

"If it weren't for the Brantley Center, Rev. (Brantley director Tobey) Pitman, and his crack staff, I would be dead," said Cliff Kurocar. "This place has given me a chance to find my life again."

Kurocar said he was 18 when he started taking heroin. He

advanced to cocaine before hitting rock bottom.

"Cocaine is the only drug I ever knew that would rob your spirit," said Kurocar, 46. "You actually become a pre-historic being — an animal."

It also broke him. "I'd get paid on Friday evenings and on Saturday morning I'd have to ask for 50 cents to get a cup of coffee. Does that tell you anything?"

Having completed the center's addiction program, Kurocar stayed to continue learning and encourage others. Pitman said Kurocar's message matches others who stay to help.

"If I can get straight, these people can too," Kurocar said.

"Life is pretty good for me right now. I don't have a lot, but what I've got is great."

"This place has literally saved my life, not to mention my soul," said Ronnie Laddin, 54, the night supervisor and maintenance assistant.

Laddin said he spent 17 years in prison for crimes related to his heroin abuse before getting saved. He credits God with taking away his addiction. "I firmly believe I had to take the route I

did for Christ to tap me on the head and wake me up," he said. "I think when Christ sets you free he takes that craving away."

Walter Kott tried to check himself and his wife into another treatment program only to find it would only take one of them. He

how much they've done for me," said Kott, 38.

"If I would have went to a military, regimental program, I would have left," he added. "The most important thing I've done since I've come here is rekindled a closer relationship with God."

Patrick said God gave him a second chance through Brantley. "I've been drinking and using drugs over 30 years," said Patrick, 44, who asked that his last name not be used.

When his kidneys failed during a binge of drinking and drugs, he got an ultimatum from the hospital doctors. "They told me, 'You either have to stop living the way you're living, or you're going to die,'" he said. "They gave me two months to live."

The ex-Marine is more than half-way through the rehab program, which he credits for turning him "into a different person."

"Through being able to see through Christ's eyes, I feel altogether different about things," he said.

"Every day I wake up, I pray that the Lord will give me this day sober and clean," he said. "Anybody that can't come here, clean up, and learn something doesn't want to."

Should we really give money to panhandlers?

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Got a dollar? A home missionary working with the homeless says too many Christians are ill-prepared to respond to this question.

"Most people see homeless people on a daily basis and don't know how to deal with it," says Tobey Pitman, director of New Orleans' Brantley Baptist Center, a 270-bed homeless shelter.

The most common request from homeless people may be for money, but Pitman says their poverty is usually a symptom of a deeper problem, such as mental illness or substance abuse.

"These problems are much deeper than one of financial need," he says. "I rarely give money. I never even carry money, in fact."

With the many feeding programs available, Pitman says a panhandler asking for money to buy food is either lying or new in town. "There's no reason to be hungry on the streets of New Orleans."

Pitman encourages Christians to learn about community services and become personally involved in a shelter or mission center.

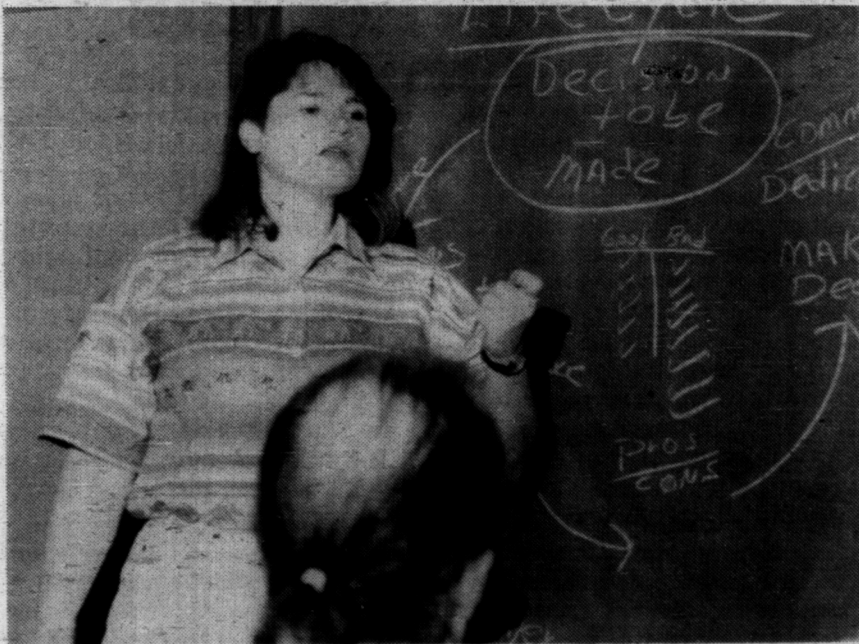
"You become an educated citizen and you can divert them to places that can actually help them," he says. "In doing that, you're becoming part of the solution."

"Sometimes we're left like Peter at the gate called Beautiful saying silver or gold I cannot share with you, but I really have something more valuable that I can share."

checked her in and left searching for another program. He found Brantley.

"I pray they realize one day

Lord will give me this day sober and clean," he said. "Anybody that can't come here, clean up, and learn something doesn't want to."



Kay Bennett, a home missionary from Mississippi, leads an addiction rehab session at the Brantley Baptist Center in downtown New Orleans. The program, which accommodates up to 34 people, lasts at least four months and would cost \$1,000 per day in a traditional hospital, says Bennett. "Only through the Cooperative Program are we able to offer what we do." (BP photo by David Winfrey)

Gambling foes victorious

Texas anti-gambling leaders describe their recent victory in that state's legislature as a realization that gambling isn't all it's cracked up to be. The Texas Senate's state affairs committee voted 8-4 not to report a bill out of the committee that would have placed on an upcoming Texas ballot a constitutional amendment permitting Las Vegas-style gambling in Texas. "This vote shows that Texas is riding the swell of a nationwide backlash against the gambling industry's greed. The tide is turning against the continued expansion of gambling," said Weston Ware of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission. Even the Texas Restaurant Association, fearful of cheap, subsidized meals that entice gamblers to stay in casinos and out of local restaurants, joined the campaign against the proposal. Dan Martin, executive director of Texans Against Gambling, warned that the casino industry sees the vote as merely a setback, not a defeat. "We've seen gambling bills rise Phoenix-like from the ashes before," he said.

Learning the truth

Mike Ruptak had his eyes opened when Mormons attempted to convert his young daughter to their religion. "I realized a lot of folks wanted my kids more than the church did sometimes," said the pastor of Hall Boulevard Church in Tigard, Ore. That's when Ruptak became one of more than 600 people serving nationwide as Southern Baptist interfaith witness volunteers, trained to lead conferences on non-Christian religions and how to witness to their members. Phil Roberts, director of the Home Mission Board's Interfaith Witness Department in Atlanta, said Christians who understand the basic tenets of their beliefs will be much more likely to identify errors in other beliefs. Americans adhere to a myriad of religions, he pointed out, including paganistic practices based on natural instincts and cult groups. "The problem is, people are undisciplined," Roberts said. To schedule a conference led by interfaith volunteers, contact the Home Mission Board Interfaith Witness Department at (404) 898-7403.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Mississippi Baptist Convention President Charles Pickering of Laurel, meeting with 22 other state presidents, appeals to Mississippi Baptists to pray for the Southern Baptist Convention's problems that "can only be solved by God."

20 years ago

Total attendance for the week-long Billy Graham Crusade in Jackson tops 281,000, resulting in 7,335 decisions for Christ and a new record for the largest attendance at any event in Mississippi history.

50 years ago

Leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention announce that the 1945 annual meeting has been cancelled at the request of federal government officials who are attempting to focus all the country's resources on ending the war in the Pacific.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

The highway of holiness

What is the meaning of holiness? To some people it is an idea of unapproachable power. We can approach God but it must be on his terms. The Old Testament is careful to note the results of being careless and acting improperly on approach. The Ark of the Covenant signified God's presence with his people, and Israel was not to take liberties with it (2 Sam. 6:6-7).

"Holy" is often seen as "righteous" or "pure." Isaiah 6 teaches majesty (sitting on a throne), beyond all earthly kings (high and lifted up), the presence of seraphim (supernatural creatures) and their message of "Holy, holy, holy."

Holiness is a deep mixture of truth and light and without holiness, man cannot see God (Heb. 4:4). Where there is light there is no darkness at all (John 3:21).

Perhaps the mind-boggling part has to do with words like "you shall be holy for I, the Lord your God, am holy" (Lev. 19:2), or "Be ye holy" (1 Peter 1:15). It is evident that God has not called us to be like those around us, but to be

like himself in purity and moral correctness. God always does what is just and right. How can his actions be questioned? He has a very high standard — perfectness — and he holds us to that standard. Holiness is not an option. It is required for our own well-being and for fellowship with God (Psalm 15).

J. Sidlow Baxter said, "Holiness is moral and spiritual health abounding." It is not sinlessness, but it is the Holy Spirit penetrating every part of my moral and spiritual being.

This is the area where we squirm. Many people have what Jerry Bridges in *The Pursuit of Holiness* calls "cultural holiness." That means they adapt to the character and behavior patterns of Christians around them. If the Christian community is more or less holy, then so are they. We become guilty of using an improper measuring device. Our pattern becomes the Christians around us rather than the holiness of God.

When a carpenter uses the last board he cut rather than the origi-

nal pattern, he begins to work in the flaws. Whether in our church or in the Convention, our pattern of behavior is a higher model than the people around us.

History is filled with marks of cultural-oriented holiness where man chooses the standard of holiness from his environment and his peers. Amos, Jeremiah, and the other prophets had a terrible time with this. How can we be satisfied with a candle when the sun is available? Why use an imperfect person as the criteria of holiness when God is near?

In spite of this imperfection, God chooses to be near his people. The "image of God" in man was marred, not erased. L. Harold DeWolf, in *The Enduring Message of the Bible*, reminds us that humans are like God in some ways, however vast the chasm. "In spirit and truth" said Jesus, is the way to worship the Father.

Even so, God loves each one of us and his watchful eye is ever on us. Refine that mixture of "truth and light" with our daily behavior and the way is made clear.



JOE MCKEEVER

THE FRAGMENTS

Too many dials

Hectic days are bound to happen. Already Mrs. Housewife had sprayed her hair with spray starch, thinking she was using "Satin Smooth." Later she wanted to call her husband. She went straight to the microwave and dialed the number.

Across the state in a equally hectic day, a woman was trying to dial a-number on her porta-phone and noticed the television was going wild. The remote control is an excellent device, but Ma Bell has yet to approve it.

Orchids to the Sunday School

teacher who suggested Velcro chairs for his wiggly children's class.

Then there was the harried editor who was told not to talk about his troubles: "Half the people don't care and the other half think you deserve them."

It took poet Sarah Dowdney to put things in the proper perspective:

"And a proverb haunts my mind,

As a spell is cast.

The mill cannot grind

With the water that is past."

— GH

New Agers looking for higher plane get Truth instead, thanks to HMB

By Dwayne Hastings

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP) — No incense, crystals, or African drums, just a folding table stacked with over 1,200 paperback Bibles is all that the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's interfaith witness group had to draw visitors to their booth at the Life Enrichment Expo.

Surrounded by advocates of the New Age — all hawking their own path to a higher consciousness — Bill Gordon, associate director of the HMB's interfaith witness department, was nonetheless at ease among the exhibitors at the Asheville, N.C., show.

"We believe that all people need to hear the gospel," he said, "and that there are many people here who have never heard an evangelical presentation of the good news."

Touted as "the largest body, mind, and spirit expo in the South," the three-day show, April 21-23, allowed Gordon to share the gospel alongside self-proclaimed psychics and holistic healers.

The most difficult people to witness to are those who embrace the New Age belief that they are God, said Gordon, recalling one incident where a man responded

to the inquiry, "What will you say to God when he asks you why he should let you into his heaven?" by saying: "I am God and I would never ask myself that question!" Those drawn to New Age are inquisitive about spiritual things, although their idea of spirituality is often at odds with orthodox Christianity, Gordon said.

"I think many of the people here are searching spiritually. They're often easy to witness to because many of them are seeking spiritual truth and they're interested in spiritual things," he said.

The HMB had Bibles available in nearly all the popular translations for people to take home — handing out nearly 700 in the three days — but one of the most popular was Gordon's own copy of the Greek New Testament.

"Many in the New Age movement trace their practices and beliefs back to ancient times," he explained, "so the words of the New Testament in its original language catches their interest and it gives the Scripture additional truthfulness for them."

This is not the first time Gordon has packed up and headed

out to share the gospel in such an unfriendly setting. And to hear him talk, it won't be the last.

"This is an opportunity for us to give the Word of God out to people who would never hear it. If we don't share it with them, who will?"

They're baaaaack...

Baptists join efforts to squelch rumors

(ABP) — They're back, like ragweed in the summer.

Perennial rumors linking Procter & Gamble to Satanism and alleging that Madalyn Murray O'Hair has petitioned the Federal Communications Committee to take religious programming off the airwaves are false. Always have been. Still are.

Perpetrators of these kinds of rumors provide "perfect nourishment for those who live by fear instead of faith," according to Phil Strickland, director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"There are too many people feeding at the trough of rumor and conspiracy fantasies," Strickland said. "And feeding on con-

spiracy fantasies can have horrible consequences, as we have witnessed in Oklahoma City."

Procter & Gamble recently issued an informational packet noting the return of a "completely ridiculous and false story" that the company's president appeared on a talk show to discuss his organization's ties to Satanism.

The informational packet from Procter & Gamble includes letters from Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry, evangelist Jerry Falwell, a representative of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, and other religious leaders noting that the rumor is untrue and urging everyone to ignore those who spread the lies.

"If there are those in the Christian community who continue to bring this matter up, they should be given a deaf ear," Henry stated.

Procter & Gamble has obtained judgments of up to \$75,000 against individuals who have spread false rumors tying the company to Satanism.

Christians who continue to spread rumors without checking their veracity are "irresponsible," Strickland said.

"We have a distinct ethical responsibility as Christians to seek the truth," he said.

"We need to do our homework. There are too many people trying to sell us too many ideas. We must not be irresponsible carriers of that which is not true."

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Brister committee denies WMU request to amend proposal

NASHVILLE (BP) — A request by Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) to amend the proposal to restructure the Southern Baptist Convention has been turned down by the Program and Structure Study Committee, which drafted the proposal set for an initial vote at the SBC in Atlanta in June.

An April 11 letter by WMU Executive Director Dellanna W. O'Brien to PSSC chairman Mark Brister requested an insertion of

WMU's program statement in the restructuring proposal.

The proposal, according to the WMU, transfers two historical WMU assignments to other agencies: the promotion of the national mission offerings and missions education.

Brister said the WMU request is a "misunderstanding and misperception of the PSSC report as it relates to the WMU" and can be "clarified simply."

The WMU wanted its mission and ministries statements added to the report as an amendment.

The PSSC report, acknowledging WMU's auxiliary status with the SBC, made brief mention of the WMU in its report but identified the Home Mission Board (HMB) and Foreign Mission Board (FMB) as responsible for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

for Foreign Missions, respectively.

In a teleconference call April 25, members of the PSSC voted unanimously to "stand by our report," Brister said.

Brister said the "facts are that the FMB and HMB have had access and allocation of the mission offerings for years. Assigning the two mission boards primary responsibility for promoting the two mission offerings was done long before the PSSC report."

In an April 25 letter to O'Brien, Brister wrote: "While we have profound appreciation for the WMU's initial promotion of these offerings and friendship supporting the offerings over these many years, the greater cause is the cause of Christ. The Program and Structure Study Committee believes that we will ultimately reach more people for Christ in our world desperately in need of Jesus if our beloved Convention maximizes the efficiency of our operations."

O'Brien wrote in her letter to Brister, "This action on your part (amending the report) will calm

the fears expressed by many that there is an attempt to alienate WMU from the cooperative efforts of the SBC. It will also serve to confirm your statements regarding the desire for the continued commitment of WMU in the missions cause."

But Brister told Baptist Press May 10, "Please ask the WMU leadership to produce their current non-binding program statements and show Southern Baptists where the mission offering responsibility now lies. The fact is the mission offerings currently not assigned to the WMU. Dellanna O'Brien has been quoted as saying, 'Get the facts and vote your conscience.' The PSSC concurs."

In a story in *The Alabama Baptist* newsjournal, O'Brien was quoted as saying, "Despite the assurances that nothing has changed, it's quite clear that things have changed. People say we haven't been deprived of anything, but we have. Otherwise, there would be some statement in the report at least acknowledging WMU's contribution."

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Mississippi vols activated to aid Coast flood victims

A pair of Mississippi Baptist disaster relief units was activated May 12 and placed at Woolmarket Church in Biloxi to help feed victims of last week's record-breaking floods along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, according to Jim Didlake, disaster relief coordinator in the Brotherhood department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

The disaster relief unit of Enterprise Church, Enterprise, began serving hot meals out of the Woolmarket Church kitchen on May 13 and was still at work at press time on May 16, said Bill Purvis of Ethel, who was serving as crew chief.

The unit was serving 1,000-1,200 meals per day, most delivered by American Red Cross (ARC) mobile feeding units. The Enterprise Church unit, built by members of the church, is a large step-van vehicle outfitted as a self-contained feeding unit.

The Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) disaster relief unit also activated five women volunteers to help with the feeding operation at Woolmarket Church, Didlake pointed out.

Didlake said the Enterprise unit

would likely end its service by mid-week. Volunteers with the unit included Bobby and Dixie Kennedy, Wesson; James Nutt, Erby Robinson, Cecil Melton, Taylor Wallace, and E.G. McPherson, all of Enterprise; Ronnie Ferrell, Isola; and Didlake.

Didlake also said ARC requested the MBCB disaster task force's 18-wheeler main feeding unit be placed on standby status, awaiting a potential need in Kenner, La.

President Bill Clinton has declared Hancock, Harrison, and Pearl River counties federal disaster areas, which triggers federal assistance programs in those areas. Individuals in the three declared counties can obtain information by calling toll-free (800) 462-9029.

Richard Colwell, pastor of Olivet Church in Gulfport, reported 13 inches of water stood for more than seven hours in the church's parsonage.

He said repairs were underway, including replacement of wet sheetrock, by a combination of volunteers and contractors.

One church member's home near the Biloxi River had four to five feet of water in it, he said.

Other Baptist-related damage known at press time included

Roseland Park Church, Picayune, which suffered water damage in the sanctuary and an older educational building, and Calvary Church, Pascagoula.

Calvary didn't get flooded, but instead lost its steeple for the third time to high winds in last week's severe weather system that blew across the Coast.

Calvary youth minister Jimmy Miller recalled that in 1979, Hurricane Frederick blew the steeple into the church yard. In 1985, the steeple had been taken down for repairs when Hurricane Elena struck and blew it across the church parking lot. Last week, the steeple came down again.

Miller said he believed a small twister took out a tree in a nearby schoolyard, as well as the church steeple. The church was holding revival services last week during the storms, but the damage occurred about 2 a.m. on May 7.

Someone broke into Greg Martin's house on the evening of May 9 — "for the glory of God," said Martin, pastor of Commission Road Church in Long Beach.

Martin and his family were out of town when nearly 22 inches of rain fell across the Mississippi Gulf Coast, part of the same system that flooded New Orleans and its suburbs.

The break-in was done by church members to save the house from flash flooding. Water got into three bedrooms and a garage recently converted into a den.

Martin's wife Laura said by the time they arrived home on the evening of May 10 after being stranded in Atlanta, church members had rescued furniture and wet-vacuumed the carpets.

Martin said he knew of four other families in the church who suffered water damage to their homes.

Churches and associations are requested to report damage to the MBCB Office of Communication toll free at (800) 748-1651.



Dapper donation

Needy people who come for help these days to Simpson Association's Crisis Center in Magee are in for a special treat. The Magee Police Department recently confiscated nearly \$30,000 in falsely-labeled clothing that was part of a counterfeit scheme. Unable to resell the merchandise, the department donated the clothing to the Crisis Center. "A lot of people will be well-dressed for school when August rolls around, because God is able to provide," said Farris Smith (right), director of missions for Simpson Association, as he accepted the clothing from Magee police Chief Tom Royals.

Mississippian is named '95 distinguished SBTS alum

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Southern Seminary has named six graduates as its 1995 Distinguished Alumni, including a native Mississippian.

The honorees are John Lee Taylor, a Crystal Springs native and current pastor of First Church, Gainesville, Ga.; Charles T. Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Church, Birmingham, Ala.; Ted Sisk, pastor of Immanuel Church, Lexington, Ky.; Dan C. Stringer, executive director-treasurer of the Arizona Baptist Convention; and Arthur L. Walker Jr., retired executive director of the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

Mississippi churches pastored by Taylor include: Drew Church, Drew; First Church, Canton; First Church, McComb; and First Church, Grenada.

Jesse V. Bottoms Sr., who died in January, will receive a distinguished alumnus award posthumously. Bottoms, pastor of Green Street Church in Louisville, Ky., for 35 years, was one of the seminary's first African-American graduates.

The six will be recognized during the seminary's annual Alumni and Friends Luncheon at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta June 21 at 1 p.m.

Acteens plan Weekenders

Acteens and Acteen leaders are reminded to sign up for one of the two available Weekender events on June 9-11 or July 7-9 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton.

Participants will arrive at 5:30 p.m. on Friday and depart at noon on Sunday of the chosen weekend. Activities will include swimming, an adventure course, missionary presentations, creative Bible studies, campfires, skits, and more.

Cost is \$50 per person, which includes meals, lodging, limited insurance, crafts, snacks, and a theme T-shirt.

For more information, contact the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Uniform Ministry through giving



By Greg Potts
2 Corinthians 8, 9

Giving, money, stewardship, — Those three words are enough to make any Baptist congregation feel its collective blood pressure rising! When a pastor announces his message title is on stewardship, he often can feel the tension spreading throughout the congregation. This is sad and unfortunate.

A young, excited, seminary graduate had moved to his first church. His first Sunday he began his message and said, "Folks, I think this church is ready to walk." The people responded, "Amen, preacher, let's walk."

The preacher then said, "Folks, I think this church is ready to fly." The people responded heartily, "Amen, Preacher, let's fly."

The preacher then said, "Folks, it takes money to fly." The people responded, "Let it sit, preacher. Let it sit."

Unfortunately, the issue of money and stewardship often limits the church from expanding its ministries and making a greater impact for Christ in its area. In our text, the apostle Paul reminds the Corinthian believers of their ministry in giving. He reminds them to...

Follow through on their previous commitment (9:1-5). The Corinthian church had made a previous commitment (v. 5) to participate in an offering that was being collected for the church in Jerusalem. However, they had not yet collected the offering and Paul offers a gentle reminder that the offering was needed. He informs them that he has bragged about them to the Christians in Macedonia informing them that the Corinthians had already committed to give.

Has there been a time in your life when you were inactive from church or your marriage was struggling or you were facing a medical crisis or possibly a financial crisis and you promised God that if he would help you out of that mess, you would begin tithing? Have you done your part? Have you followed through on your commitment?

Follow guidelines for giving (9:6-8). How should we give? Paul lists some guidelines in these verses. First, give generously. Paul says if we sow sparingly, we will reap sparingly.

Second, he says give cheerfully. Paul says we should not give because we feel that we are obligated but because we want to! Paul adds, "God loves a cheerful giver."

Churches can be guilty of this. When it comes time to receive a love offering or give to missions, we often give because we feel we must instead of because we want to. This is not the proper spirit.

Experience God's blessings (9:10-15). Paul says that when we give generously and cheerfully, we can expect God to bless us. How will God bless us? There are many today who teach the "health and wealth" gospel: if we give God \$10, he will in return give us \$100. While that may happen, we should not expect it. God does bless his children for giving but most often the blessings are in the form of the peace they have from obeying God and the provisions God makes for his children.

Paul uses a farming analogy to illustrate giving generously — if we sow sparingly we shall reap sparingly. If we sow bountifully, we shall reap bountifully. When a church is generous in giving and observes how God uses its money to minister to hurting people, it experiences the peace of knowing it has done what God would want.

Our church experienced this recently. Every Wednesday night during our prayer meeting service, we receive a cookie jar offering from the change we have in our pockets. It goes into a benevolence fund.

Recently, we were made aware of a family in a nearby city that needed assistance. Their son was being pressured to join a gang. When he refused, gang members would beat him. The young man needed to get out of the area. The Baptist Children's Village said it could take him. However, the family had no means to get the young man to Jackson. Our church gave the family money to purchase gasoline and food; a neighbor was enlisted to drive. Today, that young man is safe — due in part to the generosity of those who give to our cookie jar offering on Wednesday evenings. One can expect blessings from the ministry of giving.

Potts is pastor, First Church, Vancleave.

Bible Book Jesus nears the cross



By Sylvia Fleming
Mark 8, 9

As Jesus and his disciples went into Caesarea Philippi, he asked, "Who do men say that I am?" (8:27). They gave a variety of answers, but Jesus wanted to know who they thought he was. Then Peter said, "Thou art the Christ" (8:29). By Peter's response, he showed that he had experienced a personal belief in the Son of the living God. "... I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

Then, Jesus told the disciples that he must suffer and be rejected by the power structure of the Jews. Not only would the Jews reject him, but would also falsely accuse him, to ultimately result in his death. However, he gave the disciples hope by telling them that he would arise after three days. Peter became so upset that he took Jesus aside and rebuked him.

How typical Peter's behavior was of professing Christians who want to pick and choose the actions and results of God's will. It was wonderful that Jesus was the Son of God, but Peter was not willing that Jesus suffer, bleed, and die. In the suffering of Christians — whether it be inner conflict or external conflict — they are reminded that they wrestle not with flesh and blood, but with principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, and spiritual wickedness (Eph. 6:12). Christians are also reminded that Satan has access to the throne of God. In Job 1:7, God asked Satan what he had been doing. Satan said that he had been walking back and forth on the earth. For what had Satan been searching? The answer is given in 1 Peter 5:8. Christians are warned to be watchful because "... the devil, like a roaring lion walketh about, seeking who he may devour...." Thus, in recognition of the source of Peter's behavior, Jesus said, "... Get thee behind me Satan..." (8:33).

Satan would love to have stopped Jesus from going to the cross, knowing that it would be his ultimate source of defeat. When God has a certain purpose and plan to perpetuate the work of his kingdom, Satan will do anything within his limited power to hinder God's work, diminish its importance, or discourage his workers. Though powerful, Satan in his actions toward man is limited by God's sovereignty. God who dwells in his children is greater than the one who dwells in the world (1 John 4:4).

After one has been saved, Jesus expects him to "... deny himself... take up his cross... and follow... [Jesus]" (8:34). Often there is confusion about taking up one's cross, but someone once said that a person's cross begins where his will intersects with God's will. At the intersection of the wills, if the individual gives up his and follows God's, then he is taking up his cross and following Jesus.

Those who are so preoccupied with what is going on in this temporal life cannot look forward to an eternal life. However, Jesus encouraged those who would seek to lose their daily lives in the building of the kingdom, because they would save their eternal lives. "... Seek ye the kingdom of God, and all... [the worldly needs] shall be added unto you" (Luke 12:31).

Jesus spoke to the disciples and told them that some in their midst would see the kingdom of God before they would taste death. Later, Jesus chose Peter, James, and John; took them with him up into a mountain; and there, God the Father revealed the sonship of Jesus Christ to the disciples. He did that by clothing Jesus in the *shekinah* glory which he had shed before coming to earth. Then Moses, representing the law of God, along with Elijah, the chief prophet, appeared. Apparently, all the supernatural frightened Peter, and to add to that fear, he experienced the very presence of God the Father. God not only acknowledged his pleasure in his Son, but he also instructed the disciples to listen to what Jesus had to say. Jesus is the only One who manifests the will of the Father; thus, one is to listen to God's biblical instructions and the words God has written in his heart through his Holy Spirit.

After the disciples saw that the glory of the Son, the presence of the Father, as well as Moses and Elijah had disappeared, Jesus told them that they were to tell no one what they had seen until after he had risen from the dead. Thus the age of grace began.

Fleming is an English teacher and member of Harmony Church, Louisville.

Life and Work Seize the opportunity



By Michael Johnson
Acts 17

Just as Peter had stood before the same court that had tried and condemned Jesus (Acts 4), Paul now stood before the same court that centuries before had tried and condemned the great philosopher Socrates. Paul, however, did not stand in danger of being physically persecuted. The Areopagus (name of the court), was composed of approximately 30 men whose primary responsibility was to determine who could lecture in the city. Consequently Paul finds himself in front of this assembly who were questioning his teachings. If Paul was to be allowed to continue his witness he would have to first convince these men.

Be alert to witnessing opportunities (vv. 16-17). As was his custom Paul began preaching in the synagogues, sharing the news that the Messiah had come. For the first time we also see Paul taking the initiative of seeking out others outside of the synagogue. In the process Paul attracted the attention of followers of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophies.

Among other things, Epicureans believed that when the body died, it was the end of all. Stoics held to a modified immortality (a Bible dictionary will provide additional information on these teachings). As Paul entered debate with these men the situation ended up at the Areopagus.

It is interesting to note, however, that Paul was obviously familiar with the basic tenets of their doctrines. This, no doubt, gave Paul some immediate credibility. Wouldn't this be reason enough to equip ourselves with the knowledge of other beliefs to engage in meaningful dialogue with others should the opportunity present itself? Wouldn't we be more credible witnesses of Christianity?

Adapt the method to the unbeliever (vv. 18-30). Paul used his understanding of the Greek philosophies and culture to his advantage. Taking the statue of the "unknown god" that Paul had observed in the city as his starting point, he proceeded to tell these intellectuals who that God really is: the Source of all life, One who guides all of history, and the One on whom all life depends. It is interesting that Paul even quoted from one of the Greeks' own poets (v. 28). In the end, however, much of Paul's audience left him when he came to the resurrection. What if Paul had not known his audience? What would have happened if he had begun with the death and resurrection of Christ? It is doubtful he would have been able to make any points with the Greeks at all.

One of the witnessing techniques that is receiving a great deal of acceptance in the 1990s is "lifestyle evangelism." Basically this approach refers to a life that is growing and maturing in Christ, while letting the words and deeds of that life draw others to Christ. Studies tell us that three-fourths of church members began attending at the invitation of a member or friend.

Lifestyle evangelism seeks to encourage believers to maintain and develop deeper personal relationships with family members, work associates, neighbors, and others where the ultimate goal is to share the good news of the gospel not only through words, but through actions. If we are to reach the unchurched people of the 21st century, we will have to do it through the development of personal relationships; meeting the unbeliever on his turf and accepting him for who he is.

Include the good news (v. 31). Regardless of what kind of witnessing we pursue, at some point the individual must be confronted with the truth of the gospel: God sent his Son so the individual might be reconciled to God — will you accept or reject this invitation? This is the bottom line. All of our encounters must ultimately lead to this kind of confrontation. It is not enough to live a Christian life, we must explain why we live Christian lives. If we do not do this, people might mistakenly think we are just "good, moral people." Yes, we seek to be good and moral; but only because of the difference Christ has made in our lives.

Be prepared for mixed results (vv. 32-34). Not all of our efforts will be met with equal success. Some of the Athenians mocked Paul, others put off thinking about it, but some believed. We are not responsible for how others respond, but we are responsible for the communication of the message so that a response might be offered.

Johnson is associate professor of Christian education at Mississippi College, Clinton.

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 18, 1995

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

ONE VOICE GETS NORTHERN EXPOSURE

One Voice, Church Music's vocal/drama ensemble, has been invited to share their talents with Alaska baptists. They will spend almost two weeks ministering through drama and song. This group, under the direction of Graham Smith, is comprised of 21 individuals from all over Mississippi.

July 31, One Voice will arrive in Fairbanks, where they will minister in locals churches as they make their way to Anchorage. August 7, the group will be the special musical guests for the Alaska WMU Convention, and on August 8 and 9, they will perform at the Fiftieth Session of the Alaska State Convention, which will be held at First Church, Anchorage.

One Voice covets your prayers for their missionary journey. Please remember them as they will be "Sharing the Song of Jesus" with Alaska. □

BOOK LINK

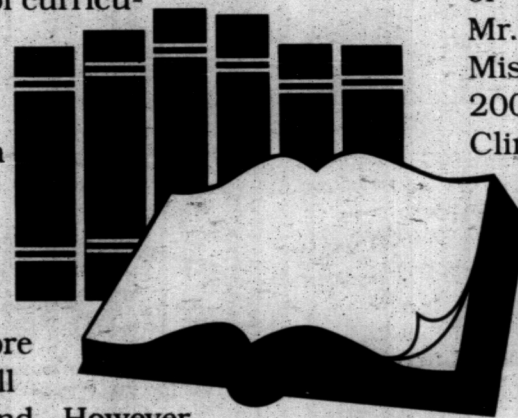
Mr. Olin Williams, executive director of Book-Link, Inc., and Mr. Cohen Robertson, Mississippi Shipping-Point Coordinator for Book-Link, expresses grateful appreciation to Mississippi Baptists for responding to a recent request for Sunday School curriculum. These teacher books and pupil quarterlies are being packaged and sent to National Baptist pastors and churches on the Foreign Mission field.

Because this request met with such a great response in donated materials, they are asking that we withhold sending anymore Sunday School materials until all can be processed that are on hand. However,

if you have commentaries and other Bible teaching helps, they are in need of these items. You may send them to:

Mr. Olin Williams
Executive Director of Book-Link
4155 Hwy 328 West
Eubanks, KY 42567

or
Mr. Cohen Robertson
Mississippi College Library
200 South Capitol
Clinton, MS 39058



S • I • X • T • H

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T E E

T I M E



Mississippi College MINISTER'S GOLF TOURNAMENT August 8 & 9, 1995

The sixth annual Mississippi College Minister's Golf Tournament has been scheduled for August 8 and 9, 1995. All ordained ministers, including DOMs, Pastors, Youth, Music, Education and BSU Directors are invited. Registration will be at 1 p.m. on the 8th at Live Oaks Golf Club. Tee time is 1:30 p.m. The entry fee is \$50.00. This includes green fees and cart for two days, lunch on the 9th and refreshments. Format will be two-man scramble. Pick your own partner. Pre-registration is required. Please call 925-3263 if you have questions.

ENTRY FORM

Registration deadline is August 1, 1995

Name _____ Partner _____
Address: City/State/Zip _____
Telephone: Office _____ Home _____
Church _____ Handicap _____

Please mail to: Minister's Golf Tournament; Mississippi College; Box 4185; Clinton, MS 39058
Co-sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



IN CONCERT

MAY 21

7 P.M.

AT

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PASTOR—DAN ROBERTSON
MINISTER OF MUSIC—JAMES FRANCIS

1995 • Mississippi Baptist Student

Campbell Doty, a student from Brookhaven and attended an accident the week after being commissioned to serve as a pastor. We are thankful for his life and witness, and we



Sydney Abernathy
Alaska
Mississippi Delta



Paula Anglin
Canada
William Carey



Jeanne Bennett
West Virginia
Delta State



Leanne Bennett
New Mexico
William Carey



Carrie Bevell
Montana
Mississippi College



Vickie Blakely
New York
USM



Tina Brewer
Pacific Northwest
Co-Lin



Laura Burn
Philippine
William Carey



Ashlea Christy
Pacific Northwest
Northeast



Jason Coker
Pacific Northwest
Mississippi Delta



Jason Craig
Arizona
Mississippi College



Jennifer Curry
Iowa
William Carey



Dee Dee Daffron
Montana
MUW



Debbie Darbonne
New York
William Carey



Robin Dean
Pacific Northwest
Mississippi College



Campbell Doty
Pacific Northwest
Mississippi College



Alisa Dough
Pacific North
Gulf Coast



Elizabeth Haynes
Pacific Northwest
Meridian



Keith Head
California
Univ MS



Jason Heg
Montana
Northeast



Kristi Hendrix
Nebraska
Mississippi State



Stephanie Hill
Montana
Mississippi State



Andy Holder
Canada
Jones



Michelle Ivy
California
Mississippi College



Matt Jacobsen
Philippines
Univ MS



Chris Jones
Minnesota
Univ MS



Laura McKinney
Iowa
Delta State



Tara Mize
California
USM



Heather Moody
North Dakota
MUW



Debbie Morgan
Canada
Mississippi State



Jeff Myrick
Pacific Northwest
USM



Paul Nation
Utah
Delta State



Scott Norris
Colorado
Mississippi State



Kathy O'Dell
California
Mississippi College



Emily Patton
West Virginia
Blue Mountain



Rena Register
Pacific Northwest
Jones



Ryan Richardson
Kenya
Northeast



Dawn Robbins
Canada
Northeast



Patti Rone
Israel
Mississippi College



Kim Royce
Iowa
Northeast



Shelby Sanders
Utah
Mississippi State



Joy Sewell
Oklahoma
Univ MS



Christie Smith
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Dawn Smith
Montana
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Larry Tubb
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Northeast



Lisa Umphers
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Angie Upson
Pacific Northwest
Mississippi College



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Christy Weathersby
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Brad White
Massachusetts
Mississippi State



Marie White
Pacific Northwest
Co-Lin



Union Summer Missionaries • 1995

and attending Mississippi College, was killed in an automobile
serve as a revival team preacher in the Pacific Northwest.
and we dedicate this summer of service to his memory.



Laura Burnett
Philippines
William Carey



Justin Busby
Pacific Northwest
Northeast



Shane Callicutt
Oklahoma
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Eric Campbell
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Blue Mountain



John Chapplear
California
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Heidi Cheatham
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Amy Fletcher
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Christy Gavin
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Mark Gibson
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B.J. Graves
Utah
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Nicki Haddox
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Jon Haik
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Pamela Lenard
Pacific Northwest
Mississippi Delta



Philip Lundy
Pacific Northwest
East Central



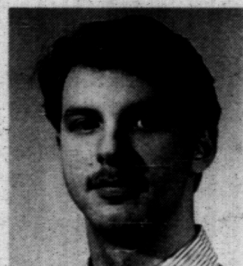
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West Virginia
Blue Mountain



Russell Pearce
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Ricke Penton
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Shannon Phillips
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Blue Mountain



Shawnda Pope
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Paul Pratt
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Holmes



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Dawn Smith
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Lee Stauter
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Carrie Stone
Vermont
Northwest



Dawn Sumner
California
Mississippi State



April Taylor
California
Northeast



Lindsay Thompson
California
Delta State



Lindsay Thornton
California
William Carey

Students
...Going...Giving...Praying



Jennifer Wiggins
California
Jones



Anthony Williams
Bangladesh
Blue Mountain



JoAnn Williams
Philippines
East Central



Andy Winn
Pacific Northwest
William Carey



Shann Wyland
Minnesota
Delta State



Karen Yawn
Maryland
Mississippi College

Royal Ambassador-Challenger Summer Camp Sessions At Central Hills Baptist Retreat: Registration Is OPEN!

The Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is now receiving registrations for summer camp sessions at Central Hills Baptist Retreat; P. O. Box 723; Kosciusko, MS 39090-0723.

Week-long resident camp sessions are open to boys and young men entering grades 4 through 12. These campers may or may not be enrolled in a Royal Ambassador or Challenger organization in their local church. Camp sessions are planned for the following dates:

• June 19-23 • June 26-30 • July 10-14 • July 17-21 • July 24-28

These sessions begin with registration at 10 a.m. on Monday and conclude with lunch on Friday.

Over-night camp sessions are open to boys, entering grades 1 through 3, and their dads. The Lad-Dad Weekend Camps give fathers a chance to do something really special with their sons. Camp sessions are scheduled for the following dates:

• June 23-24 • July 14-15

These campers will be guided by student staffers who come from churches all over Mississippi. They will serve as counselors, activity instructors and operations workers. A guest missionary couple will lead the mission study each week. A volunteer nurse will provide health care supervision. Volunteer retirees will assist in food service, the snack shop, the handcraft shop, in maintenance and in running errands. The food service staff will prepare meals, and the full time staff will give overall direction to the camp program.

All campers will participate in the following activities unless hindered by bad weather:

- Bible Study • Missions • Handcrafts • Swimming in the pool
- Canoeing on the lake • Horseback Trail Riding
- Camp Crafts Skills instruction • Field games
- .22 Rifle Range shooting (prone position range)
- Archery shooting (35# re-curve bows)
- Adventure/Challenge Ropes Course • Worship services

All Lad-Dad campers will be housed in tents with a bath house near by. The resident campers will be housed in tents and in the lodge bunk rooms. The younger campers will be housed in the tents with two bunks per tent. There will be 10 campers per living unit or "chapter." Each chapter will have a counselor who will be with that group continuously. His tent mate will be an activity instructor or an operations worker. The older campers will be housed in the lodge bunk rooms. There will be 14 campers per chapter. Each chapter will have a counselor who will be with the group continuously. His bunk mate will be an activity instructor or an operations worker.

Attendance is checked at every gathering of the campers to verify that all are accounted for. The staff and campers walk to all functions. In an average day they may walk up to 10 miles. Rest is welcome and comforting at night.

Weather is more comfortable in the earlier weeks. Groups and individuals are encourage to take advantage of these early dates.



Pray this day.....

May 21-31, 1995

The end of school again...ALREADY! Another busy summer...all sorts of adjustments and adaptations of schedules and time frames require extra loving patience...let's pray for a double portion of it for all of us...

PRAYER MINISTRY OFFICE

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Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

<p>MK Birthday: EDDIE JONES 875 Adams Drive Greenville, MS 38703 Parents: Eddie and Barbara Pastor</p>	<p>for missionaries around the world as they work to follow-up on the Billy Graham Global Mission by television; many reports are really great</p>	<p>MK Birthday: ADAM GRAVES Casilla 1417 Concepcion, CHILE Parents: Edgar and Marilyn General Evangelism</p>	<p>MK Birthdays: REBEKAH HARPER Kingsgate House, High Street Redhill RH1 1SC ENGLAND Parents: Brian and Laura CSI</p>	<p>MK Birthday: PHILIP HEARN BP 1353 Lome, TOGO Parents: James and Brenda General Evangelism</p>	<p>for Mississippi Baptist leaders and for Baptist leaders in Venezuela as they plan another partnership in missions</p>	<p>for student summer missionaries who are working in Mississippi</p>
<p>for homebound people you know who cannot be out enjoying the activities of late spring and early summer</p>	<p>MK Birthday: KITTY THORNTON Apartado 58 Bulevares Edo. de Mexico 53140 MEXICO Parents: Harold and Susan Financial Administration</p>	<p>for students who will be in summer school</p>	<p>for new foreign missionaries in orientation at the Missionary Learning Center</p>			

HOUSE TOPS

More Mississippians nominated to SBC boards, seminaries, agencies

ATLANTA (BP) — Nominees to serve on the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and the boards, agencies, commissions, committees, and seminaries have been selected by the 1995 Committee on Nominations.

They will serve if elected by messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 20-22 at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

Several trustee vacancies will

not appear in this report.

These vacancies will be filled by the Committee on Nominations subcommittee when it meets in June prior to the SBC annual meeting.

The final report will be printed in the SBC Bulletin, First Day, Part II.

Below is a partial list, naming only Mississippians who have been selected for various posts by the Committee on Nominations:

ANNUITY BOARD (53 members): 17 nominations considered; 11 new members; 6 renominations.

NOTE: Some nominees will not be elected if the Annuity Board's proposed charter amendment to eliminate their local trustees by the process of attrition is approved by the 1995 Southern Baptist Convention.

Nominated for second term is T. Jack Colvin, Jackson.

SOUTHERN SEMINARY (64 members): 13 nominations; 7 new members; 6 renominations.

Nominees with terms to expire in 2000, replacing members ineligible for re-election include: Odean W. Puckett, pastor of First Church, Natchez, replacing William W. "Bill" Causey, Jackson.

EDUCATION COMMISSION (21 members): 6 nominations considered; 4 new members; 2 renominations.

Nominees with terms to expire in 1999, replacing members ineligible for re-election include: V. Gayle Alexander, pastor of First Church, Tupelo, replacing Van D. Quick, Clinton.

BROTHERHOOD COMMISSION (30 members): 8 nominations considered; 5 new members; 3 renominations.

Nominees with terms to expire in 1999, replacing members ineligible for re-election include: David Raddin, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, replacing Robert E. Hill, Cleveland.

BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE (17 members): 6 nominations considered; 3 new members; 3 renominations.

Nominees with terms to expire in 2000, replacing members currently serving: Rudy A. Hernandez, international evangelist and member of Primera Iglesia Bautista, Grand Prairie, Texas, replacing T. Truett Ott, Osyka, who declined to serve another term.

Thursday, May 18, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Sharing the mission

Mary Sampson (left) greets Eloise Glass Cauthen at the May 7 Foreign Mission Board (FMB) celebration of the Southern Baptist Convention's 150th anniversary. Both are retired missionaries who share a deep love for China. Sampson spent 38 years there as a foreign missionary, while Cauthen was born in China to missionary parents and later returned there as a missionary with her late husband, Baker James Cauthen, who went on to serve for 25 years as FMB executive director. (BP photo by Sandy King.)

Blackaby conference has room for more registrants

More than 300 people have pre-registered for "The Church Experiencing God/Fresh Encounter" conference on May 22-24 at First Church, Jackson, and there is still time to make plans to attend, according to Bill Gambrell, First Church education minister.

The conference features Henry T. Blackaby, director of the office of prayer and spiritual awakening at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) in Atlanta. He is author of the *Experiencing God* study series, which has become one of the best-selling publications ever distributed by the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Blackaby will be accompanied at the conference by Ron Owens, associate director of the office of prayer and spiritual awakening at HMB.

Conference sessions will begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 22, and conclude at noon on Wednesday, May 24.

The conference, which is being

sponsored by HMB and First Church, is open to pastors, church staff, church leaders, church members, and all interested persons. There is no fee, but pre-registration is urged in order to prepare an adequate number of material packets.

There will be no preschool or childcare provided, and no meals will be served. A bookstore will be available.

For more information and to pre-register, contact Lisa George or Bill Gambrell in the First Church education office. Telephone: (601) 949-1941 or (601) 949-1942.

Annuity Board says no hikes for insurance

DALLAS (BP) — The Southern Baptist Annuity Board will not increase rates for its Personal Security, Catastrophic, and Seminarian Comprehensive Medical Plans, according to Joel Mathis, senior vice president of the agency's insurance services division.

The May 10 announcement marks the third year there has been no rate increase for the three medical programs.

For more information on the Annuity Board's Personal Security Program and Seminarian Comprehensive Medical Plan, call toll-free (800)-262-0511.

Campus Connection

August 6-10, 1995

The Hot Summer Connection
for College Students!
Guest Speaker Joe Shelton

The time between summer's end and returning to college is a prime time for refocusing, refreshing and refueling spiritually. Get the **CONNECTION** at Lake Forest Ranch—from summer jobs, summer ministries, and summer relationships to campus life, campus ministries, and campus friends—A real connection with Jesus Christ to end the summer and jump into the fall semester.

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Saturday, June 3 — 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



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Evelyn Vaughn, Monica Ivey
Mimi Allen, Sandra Nobles
Judy Haney, Joy Whitehead
Linda Reeves, Cindy Sansing
Grace Graham, Liz McGraw



Linda Reeves



Evelyn Vaughn

Purpose of the workshops: to introduce BBC/MVBS materials and provide hands-on training for youth and adult BBC/VBS workers.

No registration required. No meals will be included.
For more info, call Larry Salter at (800) 748-1651/(601) 968-3800



Mimi Allen

CELEBRATE! 2,729 in STATE BIBLE DRILLS

Just for the Record

Northcrest Church, Meridian, will host a Bible conference on May 25 to "exalt the Savior, equip the saints, and expound the inerrant Scriptures," according to Malcolm Lewis, pastor. Sessions will run from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; 1 p.m.-5 p.m.; and 7 p.m.-9 p.m. A coffee and donut breakfast will be served at 8:30; lunch will be served at noon. The conference will be kicked off by a harvest night revival May 24 with Randy Isbell, pastor from Savannah, Tenn. Other speakers will include: Junior Hill, Hartselle, Ala.; Danny Lanier, Little Rock, Miss.; Garland McKee, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Evangelism Department;

Phil Hoskins, Kingsport, Tenn.; Kara Blackard, Corinth; and Ronnie Cottingham, Agricola. For more information, call the church at (601) 482-3498.

Elam Baptist Church, Coffeeville, will hold a Memorial Day observance May 23. For more information, call the church at (601) 675-8711.

The second annual Wansley Farms Gospel Jubilee will be held at 7 p.m., May 19 and 20, on the lawn of the Laurel home of Richard and Gina Headrick. Bob Kendrick, independent missionary to El Salvador, will speak May 19; Glenn McElhenny, pastor of

Grace Covenant Church in Laurel, will speak May 20. Alicia Williamson and Philip Griffin will provide music. Attendants are asked to bring lawn chairs or blankets. For directions or more information, call (601) 649-1977.

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center will present a seminar, "Sun Quiz '95: How Smart Are You?" on May 18 at 6 p.m. Led by Gary Bolton, dermatologist, the seminar is designed to help participants protect themselves against sun damage and prevent melanoma (skin cancer). Registration fee is \$5. For more information, call (601) 948-6262 or (800) 948-6262.

Names in the News

Charles McCollum has resigned as pastor of Mount Pisgah Church near Eupora (Choctaw Association). He is available for interim or supply preaching. Contact him at: Rt. 1, Box 210, Magee, MS 39111; telephone (601) 849-2052.

Margaret Curry recently celebrated her 90th birthday at Sunflower Church. She has been a member of Sunflower Church for 53 years. She was the Sunbeam leader and Beginner Department teacher for many years.



Curry

James Lewis Kellum, 78, died of heart failure May 6 at his home in Sumner. Funeral service was held May 8 at First Church, Tutwiler, where he was a member; burial followed in Rosemound

Cemetery. The Tutwiler native was a retired merchant and teacher in the Tallahatchie County West School District. He is survived by his wife Savannah; daughter Ngoc Hao Tran of Memphis; sons James Jr. of Bartlett, Tenn.; Daniel of Nashville; brother J.W. Kellum of Tutwiler; seven grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren.

Lloyd Allen, associate professor and head of the Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy at Mississippi College, was elected president of the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion, southeast region. He was elected to office during the annual meeting held in Allen



Allen

Fellowship Church, Greene Association, honored its pastor, **Lewis Waltman,** on his 78th birthday. Waltman has pastored Fellowship Church for 15 years.



Chaplain and Mrs. Millard L. Swinney, members of First Church, Olive Branch, will be honored with a reception at the Wesson House in Olive Branch May 21 in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary. Hosted by their children, Shirley and Don Sappington of Olive Branch, and Betty and William Duke of Oxford, the reception will be held from 2-4 p.m. Swinney serves as chaplain of the Service Department of Olive Branch.

Revival Dates

Big Ridge, Biloxi: May 21-24; 7 nightly; Jackie Kay, Bartlett, Tenn., evangelist; Terry Hurt, Tupelo, music; Mike Priest, pastor.

Pelahatchie (Rankin): May 21-24; Sunday, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Robert Goode, evangelist; Richard Lister, music; Michael Glenn, pastor.

Hurley (Attala): May 20-26; 7 nightly; Tom Lester, guest speaker; Q.T. Curtis, evangelist; Ed Keyes, music.

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SEEKING PIANO PLAYER for small church on Sunday, traditional, simple, sacred songs. If interested write Box 75596, Jackson, MS 39282.

Sunday School lessons back next week

Due to editorial and technical limitations in this week's issue of **The Baptist Record**, the weekly Sunday School lesson commentaries may not appear in some editions and may be relocated in other editions. The lessons will return to their regular position in next week's issue.

Homecomings

Causeyville (Lauderdale): May 21; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch following service; no night service; David McGowen, former pastor, guest speaker; Paul Barkley, music; Charlie Jones, pastor.

New Zion, Crystal Springs: May 28; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall; afternoon singing; Leroy Brewer Jr., pastor.

Duffee, Meridian: May 28; 11 a.m. service with Ken Rhodes, former member, message; lunch in fellowship hall, noon; gospel singing, 1:30 p.m.

Temple Church, Jackson: May 21; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30; special dedication by Wayne Crenshaw of a table in

honor of Meretta White; lunch, noon; afternoon singing; James Watts, guest speaker; Ray Hodges, pastor.

Bellevue, Pontotoc: May 21; 11 a.m.; fellowship meal, noon; afternoon singing; Lee Graham, guest speaker; Lamar Pickens, pastor.

Mt. Moriah (Choctaw): May 21; The Crossmen sing, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. with Dale Nowell, pastor; noon lunch and fellowship.

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**JAN. 1, 1995 -
JAN. 31, 1995**

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BNF selects officers

Maggie Payne (back row, far left) of Hattiesburg was elected resource development chairperson of the National Baptist Nursing Fellowship during the organization's annual meeting in Nashville in February. Other officers are (left to right): front row, Dorothy McPhail, service/missionary nurse liaison chairperson; Ellen Tabor, president; Linda Garner, education/professional growth chairperson; Polly C. Haigler, president-elect; Nancy Brown, program chairperson; back row, Payne; Patricia A. Haile, secretary/Heritage chairperson; Ruth McCommon, student liaison chairperson; June Whitlow, executive director/treasurer; and Cathy Welborn, nominating chairperson. (WMU photo by Teresa Dickens)

Sherman may make a run for Nashville mayor's post

NASHVILLE (ABP) — A prominent Baptist pastor in Nashville who is campaigning against allowing beer sales in the city's new arena may now run for mayor.

"Some people have asked me if I would think about it, and I told them I would," Bill Sherman, pastor of Woodmont Baptist Church, told the Nashville Business Journal.

Sherman, whose weekly sermons have been broadcast on local television for 24 years, has been an outspoken opponent of the plan to sell beer in the arena under construction.

Incumbent Mayor Phil Bredesen

hopes to attract a professional hockey team to the city but says a ban on beer sales could nix the effort.

"I would like to see us have a city in which character values would be more important than a big 20,000-seat building and a pro team," countered Sherman, 63.

A city ordinance prevents beer sales within 100 feet of a church building. The new downtown arena is 85 away from First Baptist Church of Nashville. City leaders are trying to exempt the arena from the law.

While other names have been mentioned, no candidate has emerged to challenge Bredesen.

Stetson lifts alcohol ban

DELAND, Fla. (ABP) — Stetson University, a school until recent years affiliated with the Florida Baptist Convention, has decided to drop its century-old ban on the use of alcoholic beverages.

The university's board of trustees voted April 21 to allow limited use of beer, wine, and wine coolers at approved parties and in some student residence halls on the campus in Deland, Fla.

Drinking on campus will not be permitted for students under age 21, Florida's legal drinking age. Some dorms will remain alcohol-free, and students will be able to request those rooms, said Jim Beasley, vice-president for campus life.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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FNB LBWY SL W EOVC OH WH FNB YSWYOVCL
W ROSV ANSHS GYSPSEBFN NOK FS WVCB
HOVVBFN WCWOVHF NOH SAV HSXR.

GYSPBYZH FABVFQ: FAS

This week's clue: H equals S.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Joshua Eight: Thirty-Two.

Exchange program opens eyes for foreign students and hosts

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Editor's Note: Following is a corrected version of an article that appeared in the May 11, 1995, issue of The Baptist Record.

Murray and Debra Cain of Durant have their own "foreign mission" work right here in Mississippi.

The Cains, state coordinators for the Aspect non-profit international student exchange program, strive to place foreign teenagers accepted into the program with Christian families in Mississippi.

Their efforts have been so successful that they are currently seeking 12 additional families for foreign students who will arrive in Mississippi in time for the start of the school year in early August.

"Most have heard little about the Word of God. This is a wonderful opportunity to share our faith and homes with students from Europe and South America," Murray Cain said.

Keith and Barbara Fulton of Philadelphia contacted the Cains after reading about the program last year in *The Baptist Record*.

As a result, 17-year old Brazilian Pedro Fernandes arrived at their home in August 1994.

Fulton is former pastor of North Calvary Church in Philadelphia. He and his family now attend Spring Creek Church while he begins a special ministry to tackle the burgeoning casino industry in Neshoba County.

"Having Pedro in our home has been an exceptional experience for us. He jumped in and started participating in everything we do," Keith Fulton said.

Pedro, who had good command of English when he arrived in the U.S., regularly attends church with the Fultons and even lettered in football at Neshoba Central High School.

"He's eager to learn and willing to try new things," Keith said.

The Fulton children — Daniel, 17, and Rachel, 14 — have formed strong attachments to Pedro, according to Keith, and Pedro has taught Daniel a number of words in his native Portuguese tongue.

"Pedro has even picked up some of our Southern slang," he added.

Keith said Pedro comes from a Catholic background, and his exposure to a devout Southern Baptist family has been enlightening, both for Pedro and the Fultons.

"This has given me opportunity

as a father to help my children understand that there is a big world out there to be reached for Jesus. This has also given us the opportunity to plant a great many seeds with Pedro for his return to Brazil," Keith said.

Pedro's departure is an issue the Fultons haven't yet taken up.

"We haven't decided how we're going to handle it. It's going to be a very emotional time for all of us," Keith said.

Murray Cain said the Fultons' story is not uncommon among families who have volunteered for the program.

"There is a girl coming from Rio de Janeiro whose brother was an exchange student two years ago. He is returning to attend Mississippi College in Clinton and he wants a Baptist family for his sister," Murray said.

For more information on Aspect, contact the Cains at 328 S. Jackson Street, Durant, MS 39063. Telephone: (601) 653-3331.

The Aspect home office in California can be contacted toll-free at (800) USYOUTH (879-6884).

Deadline for placement with host families is May 31, 1995.

Texas facilities hit by storms

DALLAS (ABP) — A series of killer storms that swept across Texas May 5-7 claimed 20 lives, devastated a Baptist encampment, and flooded the emergency room at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas.

A tornado hit High Plains Baptist Assembly in Canyon, Texas, destroying the camp manager's home and the encampment dining hall, leveling at least one cabin, and ripping the roofs off several other buildings.

More than two dozen patients being treated in the emergency room at Baylor University Medical Center had to be moved when rising water began to fill the basement facility just before 10 p.m. on May 5.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I think something bad happened in my past, and "regained memories" hypnosis has been recommended to me. What do you think about this therapy?

After trauma, our complex mental system often creates "safe" places for us to survive. We frequently put traumatic events so far behind us that they can only be retrieved when another sudden jolt or memory occurs. Hypnosis is not a bad form of therapy and it could be a way to unblock the pain inside you. While under hypnosis, a person will not do or say anything that he/she does not want to. The real question is: Who is conducting the therapy? Check out the values, standards, beliefs, and Christian stance of the person doing the hypnosis. Get to know the person conducting the therapy, and as you feel safe you will discover the bad thing in your past. There are also other forms of therapy that can help unlock the secrets of your past. Talk with a Christian counselor about your choices.

I find myself dwelling on the Oklahoma City tragedy, trying to understand the heart of darkness that would drive someone to kill

innocent children. How can I get over this and move on?

Grieve, grieve, grieve. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted" (Matt. 5:4, NIV). You will move on only as you do the necessary mourning for this hurt. As you grieve for the people in Oklahoma City, think about the losses in your life and the hurt inside you that may be coming to the surface. We often think that once we have dealt with losses, those losses are over and gone. The truth is that sometimes a trauma like the Oklahoma City bombing unsettles our memories and we are once more faced with our own hurt, frustration, anger, pain, and loss. Let your feelings come out. Pray for the victims, for yourself, and for revival in the hearts of all people. The darkness in the world is caused by Satan, the evil one, and by sin. If we are going to change this, we must seek God and encourage righteousness, discipline, accountability, and concern for others — not selfishness and getting things "our way." This can only happen when we join hands, pray, and encourage one another toward love and good deeds.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

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